WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An image processing apparatus comprising:

judgment means for judging a color of an image for each region having a predetermined size in an image
superposed with noise;

determination means for determining a parameter for a noise removal process in correspondence with the color determined by said judgment means; and

control means for controlling execution of the noise removal process in accordance with the parameter determined by said determination means.

2.   The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising segmentation means for, when the image for each region having the predetermined size contains an edge between different colors, segmenting the image into images having a size smaller than the predetermined size.

3.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determination means determines information indicating a size of a region which is to undergo the noise removal process, and also determines parameters used in a filtering process.

4.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said determination means determines information indicating a size of a region which is to undergo the noise removal

process, and also determines parameters used in a noise distribution method.

5.   The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means controls execution of a process as one or a combination of a noise reduction process using a low-pass filter, a noise reduction process using a noise distribution method, and a noise reduction process using a median filter.

6.   An image processing method comprising:

a judgment step of judging a color of an image for each region having a predetermined size in an image superposed with noise;

a determination step of determining a parameter for a noise removal process in correspondence with the color determined in the judgment step; and

a control step of controlling execution of the noise removal process in accordance with the parameter determined in the determination step.

7.   A program for making a computer function as an image processing apparatus of claim 1.

8.   A program for making a computer execute an image processing method of claim 6.

9.   A computer readable storage medium storing a program of claim 7.

10.   A computer readable storage medium storing a program
5   of claim 8.